AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Previously Presented) A method of verifying that a server is authorized to provide resources to a client, the method comprising acts of:

generating a server authentication request at the client to verify that the server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client;

transmitting the server authentication request to the server;

receiving an encrypted server authentication response from the server;

decrypting the server authentication response without user interaction in order to prevent a user from colluding with an unauthorized server to circumvent server authentication; and

disabling one or more client functions unless the decrypted server authentication response indicates that the server is authorized to provide the at least one resource to the client.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising an act of activating one or more functions of the client if the server authentication response indicates that the server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising an act of waiting to disable the one or more functions until after a grace period.

5.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the server authentication response indicates that the server is authorized to provide the at least one resource to the client, the method further comprising acts of:

while the server is authorized to provide the at least one resource to the client, periodically:

generating one or more subsequent server authentication requests at a client;

transmitting the one or more subsequent server authentication requests to the server;

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication requests, receiving a subsequent encrypted server authentication response;

decrypting each subsequent server authentication response; and

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication responses, disabling one or more client functions when a response fails to indicate that the server is authorized to provide the at least one resource to the client.

6.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein at least one server authentication response comprises expiration information, the method further comprising an act of determining when at least one subsequent authentication request should occur based on the expiration information.

7.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the server authentication request comprises an encryption key and a random number, the method further comprising an act of encrypting the server authentication request.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method of verifying that a server is authorized to provide resources to a client, the method comprising acts of:

generating a server authentication request at the client, the server authentication request being encrypted with one or more encryption keys such that only an authorized server is able to decrypt the server authentication request;

transmitting the server authentication request to the server;

determining that no response to the server authentication request has been received by the client after an allotted period of time;

interpreting no response as an indication that the server is not authorized to provide resources to the client; and

disabling one or more client functions.

9.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising an act of waiting to disable the one or more functions until after a grace period.

10.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising acts of periodically:

generating one or more subsequent server authentication requests at a client;

transmitting the one or more subsequent server authentication requests to one or more subsequent servers;

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication requests, receiving a subsequent encrypted server authentication response;

decrypting each subsequent server authentication response; and

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication responses:

disabling one or more client functions when a response fails to indicate that a subsequent server is authorized to provide at least one resources to the client; and

activating one or more client functions when a response indicates that the server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

11.   (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one server authentication response comprises expiration information, the method further comprising an act of determining when at least one subsequent authentication request should occur based on the expiration information.

12.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing a method of verifying that a server is authorized to provide resources to a client, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium carrying computer executable instructions that implement the method, wherein the method comprises acts of:

generating a server authentication request at the client to verify that the server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client;

transmitting the server authentication request to the server;

receiving an encrypted server authentication response from the server;

~~decrypting~~ using a decryption key encoded in hardware at the client system to decrypt the server authentication response ~~without user interaction~~ in order to prevent rogue software or operators of the client system ~~a user~~ from colluding with ~~an~~ ~~unauthorized~~ the server to circumvent server authentication; and

disabling one or more client functions unless the decrypted server authentication response indicates that the server is authorized to provide the at least one resource to the client.

13.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 12, the method further comprising an act of activating one or more functions of the client if the server authentication response indicates that the server is authorized to provide at least one resources to the client.

14.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 12, the method further comprising an act of waiting to disable the one or more functions until after a grace period.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the server authentication response indicates that the server is authorized to provide the at least one resource to the client, the method further comprising acts of:

while the server is authorized to provide the at least one resource to the client, periodically:

generating one or more subsequent server authentication requests at a client;

transmitting the one or more subsequent server authentication requests to the server;

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication requests, receiving a subsequent encrypted server authentication response;

decrypting each subsequent server authentication response; and

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication responses, disabling one or more client functions when a response fails to indicate that the server is authorized to provide the at least one resource to the client.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein at least one server authentication response comprises expiration information, the method further comprising an act of determining when at least one subsequent authentication request should occur based on the expiration information.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the server authentication request comprises an encryption key and a random number, the method further comprising an act of encrypting the server authentication request.

18.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product for implementing a method of verifying that a server is authorized to provide resources to a client, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium carrying computer executable instructions that implement the method, wherein the method comprises acts of:

generating a server authentication request at the client;

transmitting the server authentication request to the server;

determining that no response to the server authentication request has been received by the client after an allotted period of time;

interpreting no response as an indication that the server is not authorized to provide resources to the client; and

disabling one or more client functions.

19.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 18, the method further comprising an act of waiting to disable the one or more functions until after a grace period.

20.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 18, the method further comprising acts of periodically:

generating one or more subsequent server authentication requests at a client;

transmitting the one or more subsequent server authentication requests to one or more subsequent servers;

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication requests, receiving a subsequent encrypted server authentication response;

decrypting each subsequent server authentication response; and

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication responses:

disabling one or more client functions when a response fails to indicate that a subsequent server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client; and

activating one or more client functions when a response indicates that the server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

21.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein at least one server authentication response comprises expiration information, the method further comprising an act of determining when at least one subsequent authentication request should occur based on the expiration information.

22.   (Canceled).